

POPULATION STUDIES

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persistence of abnormalities, and what statistically normal children and adolescents develop the personality disorders which psychoanalysis suggests they might well do when subject to the types of stresses which psychoanalysis regards as necessary for deviation from the norm.

Psychoanalysis is tending to throw the area of conflict farther and farther back into the early weeks and months of life when genetic aspects of the instinctual life appear to be dominant. If, as it is claimed, the experiential factors of psychosis are established at so early and homogeneous a phase, what hope can there be of modification? But if the child outlives this phase and reaches some later period of maturation, it still has to meet the world with further emerging genetic peculiarities and shortcomings.

Until psychoanalysis can give us a truly psychobiological picture of the structure of the Ego in terms say, of the field vectors in Kurt Lewin's sense, we shall not I think be able to decide how much psychotherapy has really achieved and how it achieves it.

In his book on Responsibility and Mental Disease, Henry Maudsley quotes Sir Thomas Brown, who says:

"Bless not thyself only that thou weren't born in Athens; but amongst thy multiplied acknowledgements, lift up one hand to heaven that thou wert born of honest parents, that modesty, humility and

veracity lay in the same egg and came into the world with thee. From such foundations then mayst be happy in a vertuous precocity, and make an early and long walk in goodness; so mayst thou more naturally feel the contrariety of vice unto nature and resist some by the antidote of thy temper."

Maudsley adds "when will man learn by the study of the operation of natural laws of which he is the head, that by studying these laws and by deliberate conformity to them he may become the conscious framer of his own destiny?"

But I venture to add that these laws of man's nature are contained not only in the relentless process of heredity, but in those of his own experience which he can in some measure modify in as much as they are made by him and by a social inheritance which must always be subject to change.

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dictates to all females—except fish—it should not be too hard, especially with the help of an eugenic education, to fulfil so basic an urge. U. G. D.

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